

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 443

By Matheny

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Tennessee Leadership Seminar for promoting and developing leadership skills in secondary students.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those events and activities that serve to mold and guide today's youth to become the principled leaders of tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, for more than twenty years, Tennessee Leadership Seminars have been held annually to promote, provide, inspire, and develop leadership in Tennessee high school sophomores and juniors; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 Tennessee Leadership Seminar will be held June 3-5 on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, the tremendous reach of this great program cannot be denied, as it is the most nondiscriminatory seminar of its kind; selection of attendees does not require any record of students' academic achievements, financial status, or ethnic backgrounds; only recommendations from school principals or guidance counselors are requested for potential attendees; and

WHEREAS, as part of the mission of the Tennessee Leadership Seminar (TLS), all related expenses, less transportation, are provided for by the organization and its sponsors; no students, schools, or parents are permitted to contribute funds in support of an individual's attendance; and

WHEREAS, attendees are wholly supported by private and corporate donors who believe in the cause of cultivating a responsible and dynamic youth; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of informing young persons about leadership opportunities in different professional arenas, the seminar consists of four panel sessions, which focus on media/communications, education, government, and career and family issues, with three to four panelists per session; and

WHEREAS, in addition to asking questions of and engaging with panelists, seminar attendees enjoy opportunities to formally host these prominent leaders by introducing panelists and moderating panel sessions; and

WHEREAS, the seminar also hosts guest speakers such as elected officials, business entrepreneurs, or non-denominational inspirational speakers who provide inspiration for attendees to continue in developing their own talents and gifts; and

WHEREAS, through activities such as games, skits, and other social activities, these promising young people are also afforded entertainment and enjoyment as they hone their individual leadership abilities; and

WHEREAS, the service component of the Tennessee Leadership Seminar aims to engage young people in a variety of activities, thereby providing a service opportunity and also satisfying the real needs of communities; and

WHEREAS, attendees' collection and donation of aluminum tab tops to the Ronald McDonald House, donation of art supplies to local inner city schools, and the creation of ceramic angels to be sold by a homeless shelter all contribute to the attendees' understanding of the responsibility and influence that comes with effective leadership; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people such as those who volunteer during the Tennessee Leadership Seminar, who use their considerable talents and resources to model for and serve others; and

WHEREAS, many of the TLS Seminar Committee members are seasoned veterans who have worked with the program from three years to over twenty years; these dedicated individuals come from all walks of life, including those who are retired, educators, college students, members of the armed forces, and members of the business community; and

WHEREAS, the generous support of various service organizations and corporate and individual sponsors enables the continuation of this laudable program; and

WHEREAS, the establishment and encouragement of leadership and values within our youth is an admirable task, and those noble public servants who undertake this responsibility deserve our commendation and praise; and

WHEREAS, likewise, the young people who willingly participate in this estimable event also merit recognition; they show great promise for the future and possess the same fundamental principles that have made our great State and Nation thrive; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting for the members of this General Assembly to pause in their deliberations to salute those youth supporters and young citizens who, through their remarkable efforts, have distinguished themselves as emerging community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize the Tennessee Leadership Seminar, thank its many participants and organizers for their dedication to instilling noble values in our youth, and extend our best wishes for another successful conference this year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.